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THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

—OF—

ASHBY WOULD.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1911.

RODERIC LOGAN, M.R.C.S.. ENG.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 1912.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch.



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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH,

February 1912.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHBY WOULDs.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present to you my Annual Report upon the Sanitary state of your District for the year 1911.

Tables of death, new cases of infectious disease, and Vital Statistics are appended, with tables of Inspector's work during the year.

The Vital Statistics are calculated per 1,000 persons living.

ASHBY WOULD'S URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

1. Elevation of District from 285 to 437 O.D.

GEOLOGY, Coal Measures, Pottery and Brick Clay.

AREA, Land, 1939 acres. Water, 39 acres. Total, 1978 acres.

	Census, 1901.	Census, 1911.	Estimated 1911.
Population ..	2799	2783	2783
Inhabited Houses	529	577	

New Houses erected during the year—None.

Rateable Value, £16,978. Assessable Value, £13,248.

General District Rate, 1/- in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.	General Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
26·2	15·8	136
Epidemic Diseases Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	
0·71	1·07	

Occupations.

Are mainly Coal Mining and Pottery with Agriculture. There are no occupations of especial danger to health and lead-poisoning is not common.

Amount of Poor Relief granted during 1911 is £356.

Burton Infirmary is very largely used, especially for accidents in the Mines and Pottery Works. Derby and Leicester Infirmaries are also used.

Sanitary Circumstances

Water Supply.

245 Houses are supplied from the Ashby and Swadlincote Water Company. This supply is derived from the Milton Waterworks on the watershed of the Trent and is stored at Woodville in the reservoir there. This supply is good and plentiful, not plumbo-solvent. The natural hardness of the water is lessened by treatment at the Waterworks. The Reservoir at Woodville is very close to the Burton Main Road, and the heavy traffic over this road raises much dust in dry weather. This it has been proved readily passes into the reservoir and during the past dry summer the reservoir was distinctly polluted by dust but not to a dangerous extent. This reservoir therefore should be covered in, as serious pollution might arise from such dust under certain circumstances.

No Houses with no supply within 100 yards.

156 Houses are supplied from surface wells. Of these the majority are liable to pollution, and in most cases the supply is defective either in times of drought or intermittently throughout the year. The quality of the well water is in several cases either bad or poor in consequence of the underlying Coal measures and ochreous Clay.

178 Houses are supplied by the Moira Colliery Company from their reservoir at Stone Row. This water is brought from a spring at Willesley and is piped to various stand pipes in convenient nearness to blocks of the Company's houses. The water is also carted to other blocks of houses which are too far away to have stand pipes. The supply is pure, constant and plentiful at the

stand pipes. The carted water is necessarily limited to some extent.

I have investigated especially during the past year the water supply of the Day Bell and adjoining groups of houses. There are 14 houses at Day Bell which are provided with 3 wells. Mr. Belton's well is 12 yards deep with bore hole 11 yards deeper—hardly any water and utterly unusable. Mr. Chester's well 11 yards deep—water bad in quantity and quality. Mr. Cooper's well about 11 yards deep—water bad in quantity and quality. If they were deepened and lined and protected from surface pollution, there is still very grave doubt that the supply to be thus obtained would be either drinkable or in any quantity.

At Mr. Dennis' House next to this group there is a well which supplies good water, but only sufficient in dry weather for the use of his household. On the opposite side of the road at Tugby's Houses there is a well (recently deepened) which provides a satisfactory supply of good quality. This well is 20 yards deep with a bore hole extending 15 feet deeper. Mr. Dennis' well is 8 yards deep with a bore hole 3 yards deeper.

I have therefore advised your Council that since it is the duty of the Sanitary Authority either to cause the owner to provide water or to provide it yourselves, that it would be best to extend the water mains already existing, to this part of the district. This will mean an extension of 3 miles with only a scattered population en route.

The Moira Colliery Company have however recently intimated their desire to consider the extension of the district mains to their whole property in place of their private Willesley supply. If they finally decide to take this extension it will greatly simplify the difficulties and lead to the supply of almost the whole district from the Milton Reservoir, and I sincerely hope that this will be carried out.

Rivers and
Streams.

There is no pollution of water-courses of any consequence in this district.

Drainage
and
Sewerage.

Albert Village and Occupation Road are sewered to the outfall works on Occupation Road, which consist of two tanks and two percolating filters (with revolving arm for distribution of the sewage), and one contact bed for storm overflows. At Swain's Park there are a few cottages and the Railway Tavern which have hitherto discharged their sewage to a small precipitating tank in an adjoining field. There is now, however, in course of construction a precipitating tank and two small filter beds—with filtered effluent to brook—to deal with this sewage.

Donisthorpe Lane is sewered to outfall works in an adjoining field, consisting of one precipitating tank and one percolating filter with revolving arm distributor. A new sprinkler has recently been fitted to this, and it is working well. The effluent passes into the Hooborough Brook.

Stone Row, Moira, and the Moira School are now connected by main sewer with the Donisthorpe outfall works as I advised in my last Annual Report. The outfall works have to be enlarged to take this extra sewage, and this work will soon be completed.

A few houses below Stone Row are below the level of this sewer and still discharge their sewage into a small precipitating tank.

New Row, Newfields, is sewered to a closed tank in the old clay pits, and Old Row sewage is collected in a closed tank below the gardens, the overflow being irrigated in a long open ditch.

The sewage of Rawdon Terrace is discharged into a small stream, which loses itself in marshy land.

Throughout the district the sewage is slop water only.

Owing to the varying levels of the district and the constant interception of railway and canal between detached groups of houses, it is not possible to have one general scheme of sewerage, but Newfields and Rawdon Terrace might be connected with the Donisthorpe Lane outfall.

Closet Accommo- dation.	Privy Middens.	Pail Closets.	W.Cs.	Slop Water C.
	564	5	8	—

No houses have been converted from Privy Middens to W.Cs., or from Pail Closets to W.Cs.

4 defective privies have been improved.

If the district is mainly supplied from public water mains I hope to see a much larger percentage of water closets instead of privy middens.

Scavenging. The district is entirely scavenged by contractors, working under the Council's supervision by the Sanitary Inspector. Three contractors are employed, but there is no regular rule for the emptying of P.Ms. It is done about three times a year in Albert Village, and about twice a year in Moira, where the P.Ms. are much more capacious. The night soil is disposed of on the land, and the ashes in a tip. The cost of scavenging the district is £162 10s. 0d.

Sanitary Inspections. 200 inspections of premises have been made by your Inspector, and 17 defective or insanitary conditions remedied. 2 statutory and 15 informal notices have been served. 21 houses have been disinfected by him personally—after infectious disease. 8 defective drains repaired, 4 privy middens repaired and 4 houses made habitable. There are still uncovered privy middens which require reconstruction.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Byelaws and Regulations. 9 Factories, including Pottery works and Coal mines, 6 Workshops, including 3 Bakehouses (none underground), 2 Dressmakers and one Milliner.

There are no lodging-houses, no cellar dwellings, and no offensive trades.

There are 3 slaughter-houses on the Register, but only two are in use.

Schools. There are two public Elementary Schools in the district, the Moira School, mixed and infant departments, and the Albert Village School, mixed and infant departments.

Moira School is satisfactorily lighted,—the closets are pan closets; the drainage to main sewer and Donisthorpe

Lane outfall ; the water from the Willesley spring is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

This School has been disinfected throughout by your Sanitary Inspector, by permission of your Council, acting on my advice in consequence of the prevalence of German measles, Scarlet fever, and Whooping cough during the greater part of the year. It was afterwards thoroughly cleaned throughout.

The Infant department has been closed for 3 weeks from April 7th for German measles and Mumps, and for $6\frac{1}{2}$ weeks from Nov. 8th for Whooping cough.

The Mixed department was closed from April 7th for 3 weeks for Mumps and German measles, and for one week from Dec. 15th for Whooping cough.

Children in this School have also been separately excluded on account of Scarlet fever and ringworm throughout the year in both departments.

Albert Village School has not been closed for any infectious disease.

The Medical Inspection of Schools is conducted by whole-time Officers appointed by the County Council. In addition, the district Medical Officers of Health act as Assistant School Medical Officers, their duties being to report annually upon the Sanitary condition, lighting, ventilation and structural conditions of the buildings. Also to report upon children excluded for Infectious or other diseases, and to investigate attacks of Infectious disease reported by the Headmasters to the County Medical Officer.

Food.
Milk Supply.

There are 16 cow keepers on the Register, and about 80 cows are kept. There are no milk sellers who are not cow keepers. The milk produced is almost entirely consumed in the district and very little is imported into the district. No case of tuberculous udders has been reported to me. The cubic space per cow in the sheds average about 400 cubic feet. This is much too little, 600 being the minimum desirable. 4 inspections have been made and 4 premises required whitewashing, 2 structural improvements and 2 sanitary improvements. 11 of the

cowkeepers' premises are supplied from wells and the rest from the mains. 8 of the milksellers are also makers of butter.

Other Foods. 2 inspections of premises have been made. No unsound food has been found. The condition of the bakehouses is satisfactory, also of the slaughterhouses. There are no special arrangements made for the inspection of meat, but inspection of the premises is usually undertaken at killing time when the carcasses are also inspected. No case of tuberculosis in meat has been found.

Housing. Under Section 17 of the Act of 1909. 19 inspections have been made during 1911, and a larger number have since been inspected. No house is unfit for human habitation. The general defects were found in dampness of walls, defective closets and defective drains. Three cases of overcrowding have been found and notices issued to remedy this. The houses are, as a rule, amply adequate for the needs of the workers. There are none placed back to back. The air space around is ample, but defects of closets, privy middens and ashplaces are the most common, though these are being gradually remedied.

Factories and Workshops. The sanitary arrangements have been found satisfactory. There are no outworkers and no underground bakehouses

Sanitary Administration in general. The Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector are the only officials engaged. I consider that the services of a skilled Veterinary Inspector would be most valuable for detecting tuberculous disease in cattle, especially milch cows.

Infectious Disease. Scarlet Fever has been prevalent in the district since the early Autumn. Out of 29 cases notified, 20 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Moira. The infected houses are immediately disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector with the Formalin Lamp, after removal or where the case is not removed, on receiving a certificate of freedom from disease. Schoolmasters are immediately

notified of all cases of infectious disease, and advised to exclude children from the infected premises, for 2 weeks after the house has been disinfected in the case of Scarlet fever, and 3 weeks in the case of Diphtheria.

There have been 8 cases of Diphtheria notified, and in every one Antitoxin was supplied free, on request by the Medical Attendant. Swabs of suspected cases and contacts are sent to the County Analyst at Leicester.

German measles caused the closure of the Infant School in the Summer. Whooping cough, Scarlet fever and Diphtheria were prevalent during the latter months of the year.

Tuberculosis.

As the Notification of Phthisis has only very recently become compulsory I have no accurate data as to its incidence in this district. Only one case has been notified under the Poor Law Regulations of 1908. No case has been notified under the Hospital Regulations 1911 during the past year. 3 deaths were registered from this disease giving a Phthisis death rate of 1·07. There is at present no Hospital provision for dealing with it in the district, but as your Council have, I understand, agreed to join the Joint Hospital Scheme of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Ashby Rural Councils, the present iron building at Moira will, on the completion of the New Joint Hospital, be no longer required for ordinary infectious diseases. I suggest that this Hospital therefore might be used for the segregation of chronic or hopeless cases of Consumption which would not be suitable for Sanatorium treatment, thus relieving many homes from the extreme danger of infection from such cases. The County Council of Leicester are presently holding a Conference of District Councils to consider some uniform scheme of dealing with Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Health Visitors (Trained Nurses) to visit infected homes and teach parents or other relations as well as the sick persons themselves, the dangers and the best way to meet those dangers of Phthisis, is I consider an essential part of any such scheme. They are intended to act as servants of the various Sanitary Authorities, under their direct control, and that of the Medical Officers of Health;

but will, I believe, be appointed and paid by the County Council.

The provision of Tuberculin Dispensaries (and here I beg to suggest the use of Cottage Hospitals, where they exist in the County, as a useful and economical starting point at any rate, for such dispensaries) will be necessary for the treatment of many cases, who are still able to work and wish to continue at work during treatment.

The provision of Sanatoria will be probably in conjunction with the Health Committees to be formed under the Insurance Act 1911, as funds are specially provided in that Act for this purpose.

I greatly hope that your Council will favour a uniform scheme for the whole County, as I cannot see how small districts, or even combined districts, can deal effectively or economically with so widespread, long continued and expensive a disease as Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The Notification of Births Act 1907 has been adopted by the County Council and has been in force throughout the County since last October.

In conclusion I beg to recommend to your consideration the Extension of the Water Mains to Day Bell Cottages and the adoption of the following Acts—Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890, Public Health Amendment Act 1890 and Public Health Amendment Act 1907.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RODERIC LOGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

